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**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Agricultural organizations team up to celebrate "Ag Day"**

**INDIANAPOLIS (March 21, 2017)** — In celebration of [National Agriculture Day](#), members of [Indiana's Family of Farmers](#) (IFoF), a coalition of more than a dozen ag-related organizations, came together at the Statehouse to recognize the significant economic and cultural contributions agriculture makes to the Hoosier state. Along with an appreciation luncheon, the celebration included exhibits from a variety of farm organizations and agencies, as well as a ceremony, which featured Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, [Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#).

"Agriculture is woven into the fabric of Indiana, and farming is at the core of our state's economy – a vital component of our rural landscape," said Lt. Governor Crouch. "From the food we eat to the clothing we wear, agriculture impacts so much of our daily lives, so we appreciate everything our farmers have done, and continue to do, for families across the state."

During the ceremony, Logan Glassburn, Indiana FFA State Sentinel, read the official proclamation signed by Governor Eric Holcomb declaring March 21 as "Ag Day" in Indiana. The group also recognized several special guests including [State Senator Jean Leising](#) (R-Oldenburg), Senate Agriculture Committee Chair, [State Representative Don Lehe](#) (R-Brookston), House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee Chair, and Ted McKinney, Director of the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#).

"It has never been a more exciting time to be in one of Indiana's longest and most notable industries," Director McKinney said. "Indiana agriculture continues to grow, diversify and lead the nation, and we must take pause and give thanks to the incredible farming families who make it all possible – and not just today, but every day."

One of the highlights of the ceremony was recognizing the winners of the [IFoF Ag Day Video Contest](#), which was designed to challenge Hoosier students to think critically and creatively about the future of agriculture. Below is a list of the 2017 contest winners:

*Grades 6-8:*

- 1st Place Winner: Nathan Tuholski, from Mill Creek, Ind.
- 2nd Place Winner: John Jackson, from Jamestown, Ind.
- 3rd Place Winner: Shenandoah Middle School, from Middletown, Ind.

*Grades 9-12:*

- 1st Place Winner: Katelyn Smith, from Logansport, Ind.
- 2nd Place Winner: John Schuler, from Roann, Ind.
- 3rd Place Winner: Anna Taylor, from Corunna, Ind.

Visit [www.indianafamilyoffarmers.com](http://www.indianafamilyoffarmers.com) to learn more about the IFoF or [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org) to learn more about National Agriculture Day.

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*Note to the press: The photos below were taken during the 2017 Indiana Ag Day celebration.*



*Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch speaking during the Indiana Agriculture Day celebration at the Statehouse.*



*Indiana FFA State Sentinel, Logan Glassburn, reading the official Ag Day proclamation.*



A group photo of the winners of the Indiana Family of Farmers Ag Day video contest.

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#### ABOUT ISDA

The [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](#) (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to [Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch](#), who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

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